Introduction to the 2016 (HICSS-49) Electronic Government Track

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For HICSS-49 the volume of submissions to the e-Gov track has increased to over 90, of which less than half were accepted for presentation and inclusion in the IEEE proceedings. For the fourth year in a row e-Gov paper sessions need to go parallel on one day of paper presentations. As in years before the e-Gov track at HICSS maintains its strong position among the other conference tracks as well as the leading research conference in electronic government research.

Overall, in 2015 the volume of peer-reviewed publications has risen again in double digit percentage numbers (see EGRL, the E-Government Reference Library, at http://tinyurl.com/p5w8vv) So, I can repeat the statement of the last five years: E-Government research is thriving and growing in quality.

Over a decade, three annual conferences have established themselves as core conferences, which the global e-Government community preferably uses to convene: the International Digital Government Conference (dgo) in May of each year, the co-located IFIP EGOV/IFIP ePart conferences in late August/early September, and, of course, last but not least, the e-Government Track at HICSS in January. Just like HICSS on a larger scale, so also the e-Government Track has gained the reputation among members of the community for serving as a bellwether for important new developments in this maturing domain of study. It has been rated the flagship conference in e-Government [1].

This year and for the tenth time in a row, the e-Government Track is accompanied by a full-day symposium, this year dedicated to the two topics of "Realizing the Promise of Social Media (in the Public Sector)" and "Smart Cities Smart Government Research-Practice Consortium," which will be covered for a half day each. The symposium has become a major event in the community’s ongoing discussion, particularly, with respect to new avenues of research and collaboration with practice.

In 2016, the e-Government Track proudly hosts a total of 44 accepted papers in twelve minitracks with 1 or 2 sessions each:

- **Big, Open, and Linked Data (BOLD)** is a second-year minitrack, which highlights the increasing importance and roles of Data Sciences in the public sector.
- **Cybersecurity** presents research focusing on the critical role of security and assurance to government operations, critical infrastructure, and citizens’ trust.
- **Emerging Topics** has a long tradition of nurturing new topics such as smart government, mobile Government, research methods in e-Gov research, e-Gov foundations, and others.
- **ICTD (Information and Communication Technologies for Development)**, looks at the opportunities to use ICTs in human development and social justice.
- **Inside the Insider Threat** is a new, but returning minitrack under new leadership, which explores one of the most important problems in computer security.
- **Open, Participatory and Anticipatory Government** highlights research in this rapidly growing study area.
- **Policies and Strategies for Digital Government** addresses how public administration develop, implement, and evaluate public policies and strategies regarding ICTs.
- **Resilience Against Crises and Disasters** is another returning minitrack under new leadership focusing on the capacity of communities and society to cope with hazards in an effective fashion.
- **Services and Information** showcases research dedicated to the rapidly developing field of electronic services in the public sector.
- **Smart Cities and Smart Government** focuses on the technical, organizational, political, economical, and social aspects of urban spaces in the 21st century.
- **Social Media in Government** is a minitrack in its fourth year, which studies the emergence and use of social media in the context of government.
- **Transformational Government** covers characteristics, development, implementation, and uses of information systems that support the full range of management and administrative functions.